

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 04602 220853Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----076060 220906Z /11
P 220808Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6185
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4602

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: JBOR, EAID, JO, US, IS
SUBJECT: WEST BANK WATER RESOURCES STUDY--NEXT STEPS

REF: (C) 77 STATE 127774, (B) 77 AMMAN 4072, (C) 77 AMMAN 8529,
(D) STATE 073574, (E) AMMAN 3055

1. TOCHRR HAS ONE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM WITH WEST BANK WATER RESOURCES STUDY AS DEFINED IN REF. A. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT AREA FOR STUDY IS JORDAN RIVER WATERSHED AREA IN WESTERN PART OF JORDAN RIVER VALLEY ON WEST BANK AND NOT, RPT, NOT WATER REQUIREMENTS IN THE ENTIRE WEST BANK AS DEFINED IN SCOPE OF WORK IN PARA. 4, REF. A.

2. IT WAS ON THIS ASSUMPTION THAT EMBASSY CONCURRED IN DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTION (PARA. 4, REF. E) FOR SUCH A STUDY ON WEST BANK. ON THE BASIS OF THE MAIN REPORT ON THE "UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT OF THE WATER RESOURCES OF THE JORDAN VALLEY REGION" PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF THE UN IN 1953 AND WHICH WAS THE BASIS OF THE JOHNSTON PLAN, THE ONLY AREA ON THE WEST BANK THAT WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS THE WEST GHOR AND ZOR AREA, I.E. THE AREA IN THE JORDAN RIVER VALLEY WEST OF THE JORDAN RIVER ON THE "WEST BANK" UP TO BOUNDARY OF WATERSHED.
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3. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN CAREFUL IN DRAFTING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH WE PRESENTED TO GOI (REF. B) TO REFER TO THE AREA AS "WEST GHOR" AND NOT, RPT, NOT "WEST BANK." REF. B (SUB PARA. C IN 77 AMMAN 4072) EXACT TEXT STATES: "JORDAN AND ISRAEL ALSO ACCEPT NEED TO REVIEW WEST BANK (WEST

BANK GHOR AND ZOR) AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL, WATER NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FUTURE. JORDAN WILL CONTRACT FOR SUCH A STUDY AND PROVIDE TO ISRAEL THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR REVIEW...." ALSO, GOJ WRITTEN RESPONSE TO ISRAELI COMMENTS OF NOVEMBER 17, 1977 ON U.S. DRAFT WORKING PAPER REFERRED TO "WEST BANK GHOR AND ZOR (WBG & Z)."

4. WE FEAR THAT JORDANIANS WILL BALK AT IDEA OF DISCUSSING WATER REQUIREMENTS OUTSIDE OF WATERSHED, SINCE THIS WAS NEVER PREVIOUSLY RAISED WITH THEM AND WHTBNOT CONTEMPLATED UNDER JOHNSTON PLAN. IT IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH TO GET JORDANIANS TO AGREE TO GENERAL IDEA OF INVESTIGATING WEST GHOR AND ZOR WATER REQUIREMENTS, AND THOUGHT OF SURVEYING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WHOLE GENERAL WEST BANK AREA, ON WHICH AN OCCUPYING POWER IS CURRENTLY INCREASING ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES, MIGHT JEOPARDIZE GOJ AGREEMENT TO ANY STUDY.

5. WE HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT WITH AMBASSADOR PICKERING DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS ON MAY 23 AND CLARIFY THIS QUESTION. SECONDLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS IT WITH GOJ PRIOR TO ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI BY EMBASSY TEL AVIV.

6. REGARDING SCOPE OF WORK WE SUGGEST
PARA. 3(G) BE COMBINED WITH PARA. (B). PARA. (D) SHOULD BE RE-WRITTEN TO CLARIFY "STUDY AREA" RATHTYLOHAN INCLUDE
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ALL OF WEST BANK AS DEFINED IN REF. A. WE ALSO SUGGEST THAT CONSULTANT BE REQUIRED IN PARA. 4(F) TO INDICATE IF DATA MUST BE OBTAINED FROM MONITORING SYSTEM, OR WHETHER OTHER TEST WORK MUST BE CONDUCTED PRIOR TO STARTING PHASE II.
SUDDARTH

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